

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-9, 13-18, 21 and 22 are allowed. Claims 10, 30 and 39 have been amended.. Thus, claims 1, 4-10, 13-18, 21, 22, 30, 31, 39 and 40 are pending in the application. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejections in view of the amendments and comments presented herein are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 30, 31, 39 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph based upon recitation of "the above general formula (II)." The Examiner contended that there was insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation, and suggested that Applicants present the general formula (II) in both claims 30 and 39 since these are now in independent form. Claims 30 and 39 as amended provide the structure of general formula (II).

In view of the claim amendments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim objection under 37 CFR §1.75(c)

Claim 10 was objected to as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Specifically, the Examiner objected to recitation of "a novolak resin", since this can mean any novolak resin. Claim 10 as amended refers to "the" novolak resin rather than "a" novolak resin which properly further limits the novolak resin recited in part (A) of claim 1.

In view of the claim amendment, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim objection.

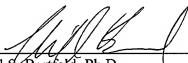
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited. If any points remain that can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-given telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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